

SOLEC 2000

What's it all about?

As Parties to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the governments of Canada and the United States are responsible for accurate reporting on the state of the Great Lakes. The State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference is a result of this commitment to reporting. With the establishment of a consistent suite of ecosystem indicators, the health of the Great Lakes basin can be objectively assessed. Regular reporting of a core set of indicators will promote more efficient and successful management as well as creating more accessible information for policy makers and the public.

The first two conferences in 1994 and 1996 developed a series of *ad hoc* indicators to evaluate the state of various Great Lakes ecosystem components. SOLEC 98 went beyond the previous SOLECs and presented a comprehensive list of ecosystem indicators for review and discussion. This suite of indicators objectively represents the state of the Lakes while establishing consistent biennial reporting.

SOLEC 2000 will begin to assess the state of the Great Lakes using the indicators. Future SOLECs will report on the complete suite of indicators. SOLEC 2000 will examine the human health issues of swimmability, drinkability and fishability, and will explore the development and use of ecological indices.

SOLEC 2000

Steering Committee

Steering Committee members represent a wide variety of agencies from around the Great Lakes:

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Council of Great Lakes Industries
Environment Canada
Great Lakes Commission
Great Lakes Fishery Commission
Great Lakes States
Great Lakes United
International Joint Commission
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs
Ontario Ministry of Environment
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Tribes/First Nations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Geological Survey

There are many other individuals and representatives from environmental groups, academia and local governments who have participated in the work necessary to develop this conference.

For additional information please contact:

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SOLEC 2000

State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference

IMPLEMENTING INDICATORS



October 17, 18, & 19, 2000
Hamilton Convention Centre
Hamilton, Ontario

Hosted by:

**Environment Canada
&
United States Environmental
Protection Agency**

Monday October 16, 2000

An evening reception will take place in the Heritage Room of the Sheraton Hamilton Hotel
Hors d'oeuvres & refreshments provided
Sponsored by Great Lakes Commission

DAY ONE - Tuesday October 17, 2000

Morning

PLENARY: State of the Great Lakes

8:30 Welcome/Opening Ceremonies/Native Greetings

SOLEC Past and Future

State of the Great Lakes: assessment using indicators for the following groupings:

- ♦ nearshore and open waters
- ♦ coastal wetlands
- ♦ nearshore terrestrial and land use
- ♦ societal
- ♦ human health
 - beach closures
 - drinking water
 - fish contaminants

Great Lakes Index Concept

Lunch and Guest Speaker

Afternoon

CONCURRENT SESSIONS: In-depth Discussions About the State of the Great Lakes. What are the indicators telling us?

Concurrent Sessions 1

Concurrent Sessions 2

5:30 Adjourn

5:30 - 7:30 Poster Session and Mixer

DAY TWO - Wednesday October 18, 2000

Morning

PLENARY: Putting Indicators to Use at the Local Level

8:30 Recap of Day 1 & Overview of Day 2

Biodiversity Investment Area Integration

Putting Indicators to Use: case studies and presentations by local groups

Success Stories: highlights of projects by award recipients

Lunch

Afternoon

CONCURRENT SESSIONS: Indicator Toolbox.

Opportunity to gather more information on the case studies (examples of issues to be discussed: easements, ecological restoration, volunteer monitoring programs, indicators at the local level, fundraising, how to change local governance (zoning), how to keep public interest, GIS approach, industry and community partnerships)

3:00 Adjourn

3:30 Fun Run/Walk and Excursions

Evening

DINNER: Sheraton Hamilton Hotel

6:00 Cash Bar Opens

7:00 SHEMA
Recognition of Success Stories
Dinner
Guest Speaker

DAY THREE - Thursday October 19, 2000

Morning

PLENARY: Lake Ecosystem Status Reports

8:30 Recap Day 2 & Overview Day 3

Lake Presentations

Lunch

Afternoon

CONCURRENT SESSIONS: Cross-cutting Great Lakes Issues & Lake Sessions.

An opportunity to look at each lake in more detail or to participate in special topic sessions.

PLENARY: Commencement

Conference Wrap Up

Native Closing

3:30 SOLEC 2000 Adjourns

3:30-5:30 Meeting rooms available

Please note:

**Registration to take place on
Mon. Oct. 16, 6:30pm-9:00pm, or
Tues. Oct. 17, 7:30am-12noon
in the Convention Centre lobby.**

For further information on SOLEC visit our web site
at

**<http://www.cciw.ca/solec/>
<http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/solec/>**